



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

July 13, 2006

For immediate release

- 1. EPC to discuss nutrient standards for lakes at July meeting**
- 2. Littlefield Lake residents asked for input on water quality improvement plan**

EPC TO DISCUSS NUTRIENT STANDARDS FOR LAKES AT JULY MEETING

DES MOINES – Commissioners will discuss nutrient standards for Iowa lakes at the July 17 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

Commissioners will hear a presentation from Jack Riessen, DNR engineer and water quality expert, on nutrient issues. Commissioners will learn how nutrient enrichment can contribute to algal blooms, poor water clarity and other water quality problems. They will also learn why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging states to adopt such standards.

Riessen said the DNR is not proposing nutrient standards for lakes at this time, but his presentation will provide background information on why nutrient standards are needed and the guidance that EPA has provided to states in developing those standards.

“This presentation will open the door to more discussion about the issues,” Riessen said. A committee of experts will be formed to provide input to the DNR as a proposal for nutrient standards is developed.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on July 17, at the DNR Air Quality Building, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The full agenda is as follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Contract – Quality Consulting, Inc - Private Well Tracking System
- Contract – 28E Agreement - County Contract Renewal for TNC Water Supply Inspections
- Memorandum of Agreement– Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality – Homeland Security Planning and Exchanges
- Contract - Kirkwood Community College Industrial Electro-Mechanical Technician Curriculum Development— Industrial Technologies Grant
- Contract - University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) for impaired waters monitoring and assessment
- Contract - University Hygienic Laboratory – 2006 Cooperative Groundwater Network
- State of Iowa Public Drinking Water Program
- 2005 Annual Compliance Report
- Lake Nutrient Standards, Background Information
- Referrals to the Attorney General
 - Dyersville Implement, Inc. (Dyersville) – Wastewater
 - Rose Bowl, Inc. (Mason City) – Public Water Supply
- Proposed Rule – Amend IAC 567 Chapter 118– “Discarded Appliance Demanufacturing”
- Proposed Rule – Adopt IAC 567 Chapter 124– “Mercury Switch Recovery from End-of-Life Vehicles ”
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
 - Review of current commission meeting day
 - Petition for Rulemaking of Chapter 65
- Items for next month's meeting
- Upcoming Meetings: August 21, 2006

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.com.

The members of the commission are Jerry Peckumn, chair, Jefferson; Francis Thicke, vice chair, Fairfield; Lisa Davis-Cook, secretary, West Des Moines; Donna Buell, Spirit Lake; Mary Gail Scott, Cedar Rapids; David Petty, Eldora; Suzanne Morrow, Storm Lake; Henry Marquard, Muscatine and Darrell Hanson, Manchester. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.

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LITTLEFIELD LAKE RESIDENTS ASKED FOR INPUT ON WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

EXIRA — Iowans interested in improving water quality at Littlefield Lake can attend a public meeting July 18. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the beach shelter at Littlefield Lake, located four miles southeast of Exira on Highway F58.

The DNR will present a draft water quality improvement plan at the meeting. The plan includes suggestions for improving water quality through conservation efforts in the watershed, or the area of land that drains into the lake. After receiving public comments, the DNR will submit the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The water quality improvement plan is also known as a TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain water quality standards.

High levels of algae and turbidity, or cloudy water, have led to the water quality problems at Littlefield Lake. The high algae levels develop from increased levels of nutrients in the lake, particularly phosphorous. The poor water clarity is a result of the algae blooms and also from sediment suspended in the water.

The cloudy water comes from sediment from two sources: the land area that drains to Littlefield Lake, and re-suspension from within the lake. High levels of algae and turbidity make the less visually appealing and less desirable for uses like swimming, but do not pose a specific human health threat.

The DNR will accept comments on the draft plan through August 7. Copies of the draft plan are available from the following sources, which can also be used to submit comments:

- Internet: www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/tmdl/publicnotice.html
- E-mail: chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us
- Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791
- Mail: Chris Van Gorp, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791.